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VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on the afternoon of May 19, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote 194, in favor of final passage of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

CONFIRMATION OF LARRY ECHO HAWK

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I rise today to support the nomination of a man I am proud to call my friend—Larry Echo Hawk. He is President Obama's nominee to be Assistance Secretary of Indian Affairs. He was approved unanimously by this body last night. And he is a wonderful choice.

Before I talk about why Larry is so qualified for this position, I want to say a few quick words about how committed he is to this job.

Larry was a law professor. And as many of you know, that is a pretty nice job.

More importantly, as a former BYU quarterback, Larry was named to be the faculty member who oversees the BYU Athletics Department.

What I am saying is, rather than spending his days being worshipped by law students, publishing groundbreaking articles, and watching college football games from the 50-yard line, Larry has chosen to serve his country in the Interior Department. If that is not commitment, I don't know what is.

We are very lucky that Larry is so committed to this position because I can think of nobody who is better suited for it.

Larry's resume speaks for itself. He has the kind of depth and breadth of experience that would make him equal to any job. Over the course of his career, he has been an advocate and an academic—an elected official, a private attorney and a marine. He has worked to put criminals behind bars and to keep children in school. He has fought drug use, domestic violence, and bigotry. And throughout this broad and varied career, he has retained a passionate commitment to his people—the first Americans. As he moved from job to job and even State to State, he never stopped working to improve the lives of our country's Native Americans.

Larry's work has won him awards and acclaim from around the country and across the political spectrum. Just recently, a respected law professor suggested that Larry replace Justice Souter on the Supreme Court. This is a man who really could do anything.

And Larry is more than a very accomplished lawyer and public servant. He is a deep and innovative thinker.

Larry grew up in Farmington, NM, but I first got to know him when we were both elected state attorneys gen-

eral in 1990. At the time, Larry was the first Native American to be elected to a statewide constitutional office anywhere in the United States.

And Larry's path breaking did not stop there. Shortly after his election, he began to spread what, at the time, was a very new idea—conflicts with tribes should not be settled in court.

Back then, state AGs were in court with the tribes all the time. Nobody won those cases because the bad blood on both sides turned any outcome into a defeat.

Larry was the first to say, "We can do better." And he was right.

I followed Larry's advice, and as a result New Mexico's relationship with our tribes was more productive for everybody involved.

The author Dov Seidman has written that, "Laws tell you what you can do. Values inspire in you what you should do."

Larry knows the law well enough to understand what is possible. But, more importantly, he has the values to know when it is time to expand the realm of the possible—to break old habits and try new ideas. He is a leader who can bring change to a Bureau that desperately needs it.

At BIA, we need somebody who can work with tribal governments and tribal members with an attitude of respect. We need somebody who combines a deep knowledge of Indian issues with the compassion that comes from common experience and common culture. We need a great mind connected to a great heart.

In short, we need Larry Echo Hawk. I thank you all for supporting his nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR BIRTHDAY OF POWELL, WYOMING

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on May 25, 2009, we will celebrate the centennial of Powell, WY. Located in the valley of the Shoshone River, Powell is surrounded by the Absaroka and Big Horn mountain ranges, and is east of Yellowstone National Park.

One hundred years ago, the U.S. Reclamation Service offered for sale lots in a tract of land designated as the Powell Townsite. The sale began the last week in May 1909 and by June 30 of that year all lots in the square mile tract were purchased. The sale totaled \$16,750. While a thriving community was officially born May 25, 2009, the area had been occasionally populated for tens of thousands of years. Stone circles provide the archaeological and ethnohistorical evidence to show that the Shoshone and Crow had active family organizations, camp activities, and domestic life in the area.

Perhaps the first White man to view what would become Powell was Lewis and Clark's colleague, John Colter. During the winter of 1807, Colter made

the solitary trek from Fort Manuel Lisa to inform the Native Americans living near the Clark Fork River that a new trading post had been established. On his way back, he viewed the sagebrush flats along the Stinking Water River. Just a century later, the town of Powell would be born—and the river renamed Shoshone.

In 1906, the U.S. Reclamation Service established an engineering camp on the sagebrush flats and called it Camp Colter. Yet when the townsite was offered for sale, a new name was necessary since another location in the Big Horn Basin was also named for the Lewis and Clark explorer. The town's forefathers chose to honor Major John Wesley Powell, an early explorer, conservationist and reclamationist—and the former head of the U.S. Reclamation Service Geodetic Survey.

Powell is a terrific community. On the town's centennial blog, Cathy Howard Miller writes, "Powell—a small town where everyone knows you and you know them, a place to raise children, where you can feel safe." Cathy's words sum up the reason why Powell was elected as one of 10 All-America Cities in 1994. With a population of 5,381, its economy is based upon oil, irrigated farming, ranching, tourism, and agricultural support services. Home of the Powell High School Panthers and the Northwest College Trappers, Powell is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Powell, WY, a happy birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MYLES BRAND

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I recognize a constituent and a dear friend, Dr. Myles David Brand, a man of uncommon integrity and vision whose leadership has restored an ethos of scholastic achievement to collegiate athletics in America.

Dr. Brand took over as the fourth chief executive officer of the National Collegiate Athletics Association, NCAA, in January 2003, and the intervening years have been marked by an unyielding focus on reorienting the NCAA's priorities in ways aimed to nurture and support the student athlete.

Dr. Brand delivered a watershed speech in 2001 at the National Press Club, in which he enunciated the mission statement that would come to define his tenure leading the NCAA: "Academics must come first."

Dr. Brand warned against the "bleeding of the entertainment industry with intercollegiate athletics" and cautioned that falling academic performance "risks undermine the integrity of a system of higher education that is without question right now leading the world."

"Athletic success," he said, "cannot substitute for academic success. Universities must be seen, and understood, and judged by their achievements as